

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-6, 12-20, 24, 26-29, 31-38, 41-46, and 48-71 are pending. No new matter has been introduced.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-6, 12-16, 20, 24, 26-29, 31, 32, 41-46, 48, 49, and 56-71 are rejected over US Patent No. 5,961,593 to Gabber et al. (Gabber). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in light of the remarks below.

Claim 1 provides a method comprising a user computer providing a first email address received from an email service provider for use to register a user of the user computer with a first web site; the user computer providing a second email address received from the email service provider, separate and distinct from the first email address, for use to register said user with a second web site; wherein the first and second email addresses were simultaneously provided to the user computer by the email service provider in advance of providing the first and second email addresses to the first and second web sites by the user computer.

Thus, according to claim 1, a user computer communicates with an email service provider to receive first and second separate and distinct email addresses provided simultaneously and in advance of the user computer in turn providing the first and second email addresses to the first and second web sites to register a user.

Gabber is cited for teaching every element of claim 1; however, the reference fails to teach at least one element of the claim. Gabber teaches the use of an intermediate proxy system through which a user may interact with web sites to maintain anonymity. It is the proxy system that communicates with the web sites, not the user computer. According to the Office Action, Gabber teaches “a user computer providing a first email address received from an email service provider for use to register a user with a first web site (col. 12 lines 1-26)”. But, it is not the user computer that provides an email address to the first web site, nor is the email address received by the user computer from an email service provider. Gabber

provides a proxy system to reside between the user computer and the first web site and provides that the proxy system itself creates an alias address. Thus, there are two elements of the first clause of claim 1 that are not taught by Gabber. The second clause of claim 1 is similarly distinct from the cited teachings of Gabber.

The Office Action further indicates that Gabber teaches “wherein first and second email addresses were simultaneously provided to the user computer by the email service provider in advance of providing the first and second email addresses to the first and second web sites by the user computer (col. 7 lines 4-24, col. 10 lines 4-40)”. Again, the cited portions of Gabber provide for an intermediate proxy system to communicate with one or more web sites. The cited portion of Gabber provides for the creation of one or more aliases by the proxy system, and the provision of the aliases to the one or more web sites by the proxy system. The third clause of claim 1 is thus clearly distinct from Gabber.

Thus, the system of Gabber only works with the proxy system as an integrated part of the whole. The proxy system creates the aliases and email addresses and handles the communications to create anonymity. However, the features of claim 1 provide a method that may be implemented more easily, with more flexibility, and without the need for an intervening agent.

Therefore, Gabber fails to teach at least one element of claim 1, and thus claim 1 is patentable over Gabber.

Claims 28, 41, 45, 56, 59, 62, and 67 contain language similar to that of claim 1, and are therefore patentable over Gabber for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 2-6, 12-16, 20, 29, 31, 32, 42-44, 46, 48, 49, 57, 58, 60, 61, 63-66, and 68-71 are dependent on claims 1, 28, 41, 45, 56, 59, 62, and 67 respectively incorporating their limitations and are thus patentable over Gabber for at least the reasons discussed above.

With respect to claim 24, Gabber fails to teach at least one element of the claim. Claim 24 recites a method comprising an electronic device requesting and receiving for a user, a first email address from an email service provider at a first point in time subsequent to the user subscribing for email service with the email

service provider; the electronic device employing the received first email address to facilitate communication between the user and a first communication partner or group of communication partners; the electronic device, prior to the first communication partner or group of communication partners initiating a communication with the user, notifying the email service provider of said employment of the first email address to facilitate communication with the first communication partner or group of communication partners; the electronic device requesting and receiving for the user, a second email address, separate and distinct from said first email address, from the email service provider at a second point in time subsequent to the user subscribing for email service with the email service provider, the second point in time being a later point in time than the first point in time; the electronic device employing the received second email address to facilitate communication between the user and a second communication partner or group of communication partners; and the electronic device, prior to the second communication partner or group of communication partners initiating a communication with the user, notifying the email service provider of said employment of the second email address to facilitate communication with the second communication partner or group of communication partners.

Claim 24 recites a series of features that include (1) an electronic device requesting and receiving an email address for a user from an email service provider subsequent to the user subscribing for service with the email service provider; and (2) the electronic device using the address for communication and notifying the email service provider of such use. Neither of these two features are taught by Gabber.

Gabber teaches the use of an intermediate proxy system through which a user may interact with web sites to maintain anonymity. The Office Action cites Column 12, lines 4-7 for the “requesting and receiving” a first email address from an email service provider subsequent to the user subscribing for service with the email service provider. However, nowhere in Gabber does the proxy system or the user computer communicate with a separate email service provider. At no point does Gabber provide for obtaining an email address from an email service provider

subsequent to a user subscribing for email service from the email service provider. Gabber instead provides for a proxy system. The proxy system itself creates email addresses for a user, and thus does not interact with an email service provider and there is no prior subscription by the user. Therefore, Gabber fails to teach all the features of the first clause of claim 24.

In addition, Gabber does not provide for the electronic device to provide notice back to the email service provider when the email address is used, as recited in claim 24. For such a teaching, the Office Action cites Column 7, lines 34-39; Column 13, lines 27-53; and Column 15, lines 8-15. The first citation provides for a database or lookup table to associate aliases with the substitute identifiers (Column 7, lines 34-39). The second citation provides for a peripheral proxy system and central proxy system to further insulate a user (Column 13, lines 27-53). However, at no point is there provided a notification operation, whereby an email service provider is notified of usage of an email address. The dual proxy system arrangement in Gabber provides for the creation of an email address at a peripheral proxy system which is then transmitted to a central proxy system and used in communications with various web sites. The central proxy system does not communicate the usage of the email address back to the peripheral proxy system. In fact, there is no mention of any information flowing from central proxy system back to peripheral proxy system. Importantly, even if there were such information being transmitted in Gabber, such a teaching would still not anticipate the recited feature of claim 24. The feature of claim 24 indicates that the notification of usage sent from the electronic device to the email service provider occurs before the communication partner initiates communication with the user. Thus, the email service provider is forewarned of the potential communication from the communication partner. This feature is not taught by Gabber.

Finally, the third citation in Gabber noted above relates to a similar arrangement described above with a peripheral proxy system and a central proxy system (Column 15, lines 8-15). The peripheral proxy system generates an email address that is transmitted to a central proxy system and used by the central proxy system. No notification of usage flows back to the peripheral proxy system in

advance of a communication partner initiating communication using the provided email address.

Therefore, Gabber fails to teach at least one element of claim 24, and thus claim 24 is patentable over Gabber.

Claim 26 and 27 are dependent on claim 24 incorporating its limitations and are thus patentable over Gabber for at least the reasons discussed above.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 33-35, and 50-52 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabber in view of US Patent No. 6,874,023 to Pennell (Pennell). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in light of the remarks below.

Claim 33 provides a method comprising an email service provider receiving emails addressed to a first and a second email address of a user, the first and second email addresses having been provided by the email service provider to an electronic device of the user for the electronic device to facilitate respective communication between the user and a first and a second intended communication partner; and the email service provider organizing said received emails based at least in part on said first and second email addresses of the user, and respective intended versus unintended communication partners of said first and second email addresses of the user.

Thus, claim 33 provides for the email service provider organizing said received emails based at least in part on said first and second email addresses of the user, and respective intended versus unintended communication partners of said first and second email addresses.

Gabber does not provide any teaching of sorting received emails based on intended versus unintended communication partners of an email address. Gabber simply provides an email box for each email address but, within an email address box, there is no sorting of the messages based on intended versus unintended communication partners.

Pennell provides a mechanism to sort incoming emails by sender, but fails to provide a teaching or suggestion of organizing the emails by whether or not the

received email was from an intended or an unintended communication partner of that particular email address as recited in claim 33. Claim 33 provides a mechanism to sort emails based on whether the user intended to communicate with that sender, and thus allows the user to determine whether the provided email address has been, for example, shared with or sold to an unauthorized third party. Again, Pennell simply provides a way to sort incoming emails based on the identity of the sender, not the additional characteristic of whether the sender was an intended or unintended partner.

Claims 35, 50, and 52 contain language similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 33. As claim 33 is patentable over Gabber and Pennell, so are claims 35, 50, and 52 for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 33.

Claims 34 and 51 are dependent on claims 33 and 50 incorporating their limitations respectively. Therefore, for at least the same reasons discussed above, claims 34 and 51 are patentable over Gabber and Pennell.

Claims 17-19, 36-38, and 53-55 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabber in view of US Patent No. 5,923,845 to Kamiya (Kamiya). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in light of the remarks below.

Claims 17-19, 36-38, and 53-55 are dependent on claims 1, 35, and 52 incorporating their recitations respectively. Claims 1, 35, and 52 are patentable as discussed above. Kamiya fails to overcome the deficiencies of Gabber. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, claims 17-19, 36-38, and 53-55 are patentable over Gabber and Kamiya.

In addition, claims 36-38 and 53-55 are dependent on claims 35 and 52 respectively. Claims 35 and 52 are only rejected over the combination of Gabber and Pennell. However, in the rejection of claims 36-38 and 53-55, Pennell is not cited. Following the argument of the Office Action, Gabber is insufficient alone to teach the features of claims 35 and 52. Thus, since Kamiya is only cited for the additional features of claims 36-38 and 53-55, it stands to reason that Gabber and Kamiya are insufficient to teach all the features of claims 36-38 and 53-55 which, at

a minimum, include the teachings necessitating the recitation of Pennell. In fact, Kamiya does not remedy the deficiencies of Gabber. Thus, for this additional reason, claims 36-38 and 53-55 appear patentable over Gabber and Kamiya.

Conclusion

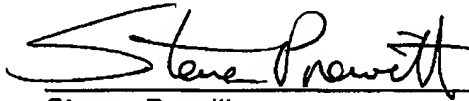
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 12-20, 24, 26-29, 31-38, 41-46, and 48-71 are in condition for allowance and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2844. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,

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